



The **LANDS** of the **TWENTIETH CENTURY**



*"La Bassa, if you're in it,
has no boundaries. It's an
expanding world."*

Lea Bernini



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"1900 is a regional film. I think that regional means popular. And popular culture means continuity in the peasant world."

Leonardo

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The great epic made by Bernardo Bertolucci, that immense fresco on the 1900 through the cross-section of an Emilian territory so emblematic in representing women and men, society and struggles, dictatorships, wars, liberations, is one of the titles that best embodies cultural identity in our region. In addition to the sumptuous and heterogeneous cast, the protagonist is the landscape of the Emilian countryside, enhanced by the photography of Vittorio Storaro.

"Returning with 1900 in Emilia, I wanted to check if it was possible for me to talk about the land where I was born. And then to speak of the most formative period of my life, that is, childhood, adolescence; destroying those literary filters - somehow Proustian filters - that have always influenced me from the moment I spoke, I filmed Emilia."

(1) CORTE DELLE PIACENTINE

Strada Piacentine, 112 - Roncole Verdi, Busseto (Parma).

The Piacentine (whose main part is now used as a farm with the name "Corte degli Angeli") is the main set of the film, the Berlinghieri farm, the peasant court where the Dalcò family lives and works. The same location is also used for the film La Luna. "In the first days we shot in The Piacentine, Sterling sheltered under a tree to get inspired by the countryside. I saw him eat the countryside up with his eyes, where he was supposed to have

walked, worked, sweated. I also remember that Burt walked on the set two or three days before shooting his part, when we staged the ocarinas dance under the poplars and he was absolutely enchanted by the so sweet sound of these instruments, and by the movements of the dancers in the trees. He was ecstatic and entered an almost mystical dimension that was useful for his subsequent interpretation." (Bernardo Bertolucci)

(2) TERME BERZIERI

Via Roma 9, Salsomaggiore Terme.

This art nouveau spa is in the film the hotel in Capri where uncle Ottavio stays, joined by his nephew Alfredo with his future wife Ada. It is the beginning of the second act, when the small group of the three are traveling south, "as far as possible from these uniformed peasants."

(3) HISTORIC CENTER OF GUASTALLA

Some of the main scenes from 1900 take place in the historic center of Guastalla. It starts from the **Railway Station (3a)**, where the peasant children accompanied by their mothers, watching a puppet show, await the train that will take them away from the hardships that the great agrarian strike of 1908 will impose on families.

In the heart of the Renaissance center is **Corso Garibaldi (3b)**. From here starts the desperate "Wake up" that Olmo and Anita shout at the closed and indifferent

windows while they accompany the cart on which the charred bodies of the old people who died in the fire of the people's house lie.

The scene then unfolds in **Piazza Mazzini (3c)** where the miserable procession turns into the solemn funeral introduced by the notes of the Internazionale and accompanied by a parade of peasant faces framed between handkerchiefs and red flags that walk at the rate of a sumptuous funeral march. "When I was there in the square and found seven or eight hundred peasant faces in front of me, the idea of how to turn naturally came ...": Bernardo Bertolucci attributes to this scene an epic value that elevates the culture of the farming world of the Bassa at the level of the great myths of history. The closing of the door on the frame of the square leads to the interior of the **Doge's Palace**, where Attila is having the black shirt made and, through the violent gesture of killing the cat, concretely starts the tragedy of squad fascism.

(4) VILLA SAN DONNINO

Strada Medicina 25, San Donnino (Modena).

This villa, one of the greatest examples of Italian liberty architecture, is the home of Uncle Ottavio, where the first meeting between Alfredo and Ada takes place. "Bernardo had cut the part on me. 1900 is one of the films I love most. Ada is a beautiful, poetic character, out of politics, she doesn't understand violence." (Dominique Sanda)



► TERME BERZIERI

Dominique Sanda and Robert De Niro © Angelo Novi/Cineteca di Bologna

► THE PIACENTINE

Stills from the 1900 restoration



► GUASTALLA COURT

Gérard Depardieu and Stefania Sandrelli © Angelo Novi/Cineteca di Bologna

► BERTOLUCCI ON SET

Bernardo Bertolucci with his father Attilio on the set © Angelo Novi/Cineteca di Bologna



► THE 1900 SET

The workforce on set Corte delle Piacentine © Angelo Novi/Cineteca di Bologna